



BY ROY THOMAS, RICK HOBERG, AND BILL COLLINS

TSUNAMI!
MEANS
TIDAL WAVE!
TSUNAMI MEANS
DEATH!

ALL-STAR SQUADRON

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the WRATH OF TSUNAMI!

ROY THOMAS
WRITER/EDITOR

RICK HOBERG & BILL COLLINS
ARTISTS

GENE D'ANGELO, COLORIST
CODY, LETTERER

THAT PERISCOPE WE SAW A MOMENT AGO...* WHERE'D IT GO?

WE'LL FIND IT, BRANDY! AND AFTER WE TAKE CARE OF THAT JAPANESE SUB--

--I'M GONNA FIND OUT WHAT THIS HUMAN PORPOISE WAS DOING SKULKING AROUND OFF THE CALIFORNIA COAST!

IF YOU MEAN ME, JOHNNY QUICK, THE NAME IS NEPTUNE PERKINS--

--AND I'VE AS MUCH RIGHT AS ANY AMERICAN TO GO WHERE I CHOOSE!

"Why are waves and winds so unsettled nowadays?"
--from a poem by the emperor Meiji, quoted by emperor Hirohito, 1941.

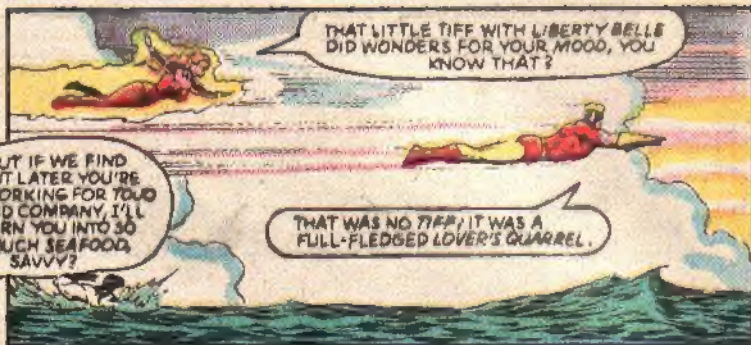
*LAST ISSUE. --R.T.

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"FREE, WET, AND NEARLY 21." HUM? OKAY, I'LL BUY THAT-- FOR NOW.

BUT IF WE FIND OUT LATER YOU'RE WORKING FOR T.O.U. AND COMPANY, I'LL TURN YOU INTO 30 MUCH SEAFOOD, SAVVY?



THAT LITTLE TIFF WITH LIBERTY BELLE DID WONDERS FOR YOUR MOOD, YOU KNOW THAT?

THAT WAS NO TIFF; IT WAS A FULL-FLEDGED LOVER'S QUARREL.



EVEN IF BELLE AND I AREN'T EXACTLY LOVERS YET--AND THE LIKELIHOOD ISN'T EXACTLY GROWING.

WELL, THIS IS WHERE THE PERISCOPE WAS.

BUT WE'RE GONNA GET A MITE SOGGY IF WE PLAN ON CHASING IT.



DID YOU EXPECT IT TO COME TO YOU?

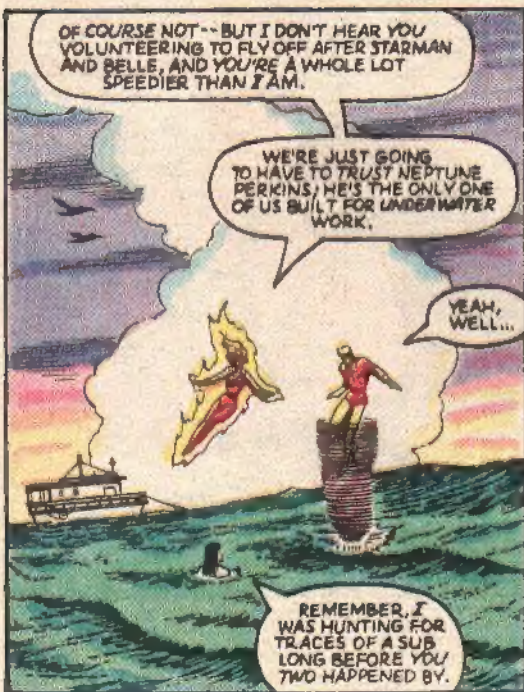
I'LL BET STARMAN COULD DRAG IT UP WITH HIS GRAVITY ROD.

FIREBRAND, WHY DON'T YOU WING IT INTO SANTA BARBARA AND--



NEGATIVE! I'M NOT AN ERRAND GIRL, JOHNNY.

I DIDN'T MEAN--



OF COURSE NOT-- BUT I DON'T HEAR YOU VOLUNTEERING TO FLY OFF AFTER STARMAN AND BELLE, AND YOU'RE A WHOLE LOT SPEEDIER THAN I AM.

WE'RE JUST GOING TO HAVE TO TRUST NEPTUNE PERKINS; HE'S THE ONLY ONE OF US BUILT FOR UNDERWATER WORK.

YEAH, WELL...

REMEMBER, I WAS HUNTING FOR TRACES OF A SUB LONG BEFORE YOU TWO HAPPENED BY.



IF I FIND SOMETHING BELOW, I WILL COME BACK FOR YOU...

...PERHAPS.



THAT WAS NOT TOO FRIENDLY, I SUPPOSE... BUT THAT QUICK FELLOW CAN GET UNDER EVEN WATER-RESISTANT SKIN LIKE MINE.

NOW WHERE...?



THERE IT IS--
AND JAPANESE, JUST
LIKE WE SUSPECTED!
NO REASON FOR A
U.S. SUB TO PLAY
HIDE-AND-SEEK.

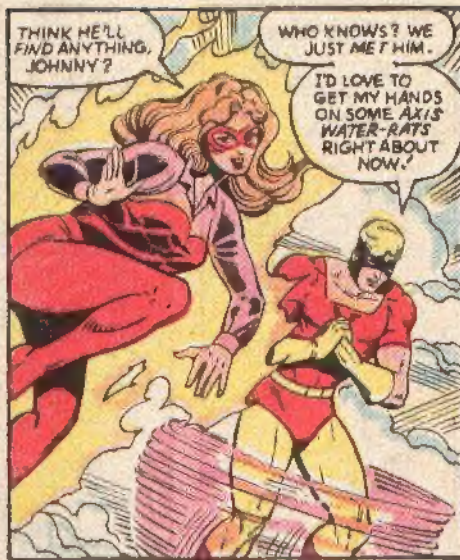
PERHAPS
I SHOULD GO
BACK AND INFORM
THE ALL-STARS;
THEY ARE THE
HEROES, AFTER
ALL.

I'M MERELY A
WOULD-BE WRITER,
WITH A UNIQUE
HANDICAP WHICH
TIES ME FOREVER
TO THE SEA.



YET, IF I COULD
PERHAPS FOUL THAT
SUB'S SCREW FIRST--

YES,
THAT IS
WHAT I
SHALL
DO!



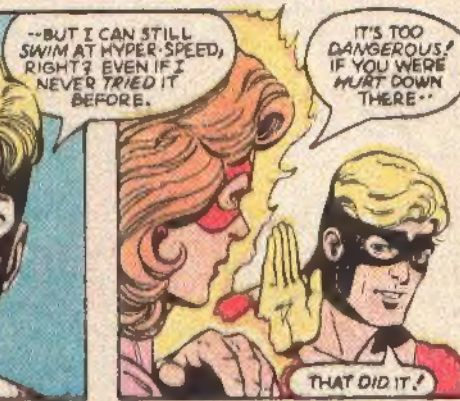
THINK HE'LL
FIND ANYTHING,
JOHNNY?

WHO KNOWS? WE
JUST MET HIM.

I'D LOVE TO
GET MY HANDS
ON SOME AXIS
WATER-RATS
RIGHT ABOUT
NOW!



AND-- WHY
SHOULDN'T
I? I'M NO
MERMAID--



--BUT I CAN STILL
SWIM AT HYPER-SPEED,
RIGHT? EVEN IF I
NEVER TRIED IT
BEFORE.

IT'S TOO
DANGEROUS!
IF YOU WERE
HURT DOWN
THERE--

THAT DID IT!



YOU JUST SAID THE MAGIC WORD,
BRANDY.

AS JOHNNY
CHAMBERS OR JOHNNY
QUICK-- I NEVER COULD
RESIST A CHALLENGE.

SEE
VA?

WAIT--!

NUTS!
HE'S GONE. AND
WHAT DOES THAT
MAKE ME?



NOTHING BUT A
WALKING, TALKING
NIGHT-LIGHT?



HAM! THERE'S THE
ENEMY SUB, ALL
RIGHT--

--AND PERKINS IS STILL
DOG-PADDLING TOWARD IT!



HE'S GOT ONLY YARDS TO GO TO REACH THE SUB--

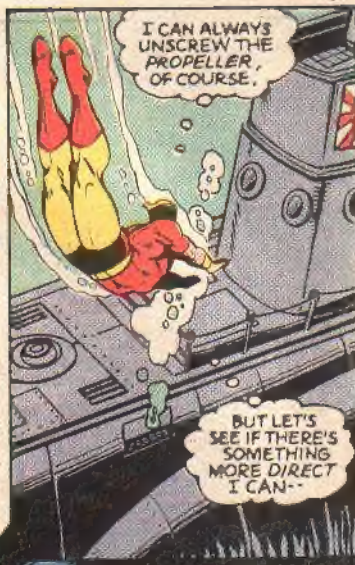


--BUT IN THAT TIME I COULD SWIM THE BACKSTROKE ALL THE WAY DOWN TO LOS ANGELES AND BACK.

GANSHAW SQUIRT!

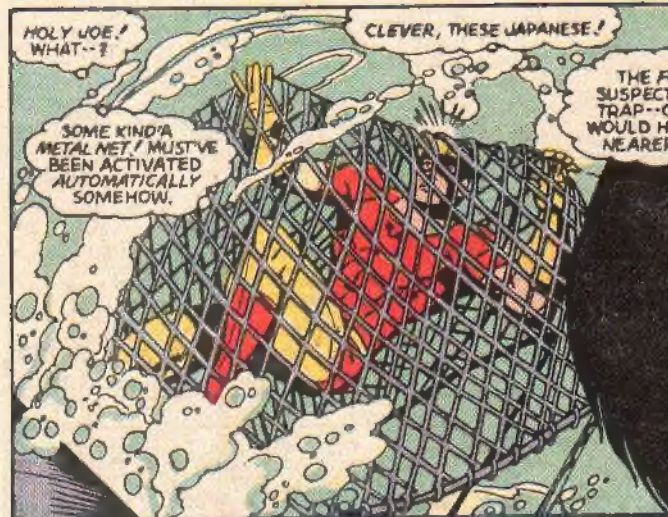


SCORE ONE FOR J.Q.!



I CAN ALWAYS UNSCREW THE PROPELLER, OF COURSE.

BUT LET'S SEE IF THERE'S SOMETHING MORE DIRECT I CAN--



HOLY JOE! WHAT--?

SOME KIND'A METAL NET! MUST'VE BEEN ACTIVATED AUTOMATICALLY SOMEHOW.

CLEVER, THESE JAPANESE!

THE FOOL! I SUSPECTED SUCH A TRAP--OR I, TOO, WOULD HAVE VENTURED NEARER THE SUB.



QUICK CAN'T POSSIBLY HOLD HIS BREATH FOR UP TO SEVEN MINUTES AS DOLPHINS AND I CAN--



--SO I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO TRY TO HELP HIM.

HUH? NOW WHAT DOES YOUNG FISH-FACE THINK HE'S GONNA DO?

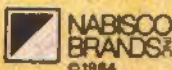


WADDAYA KNOW! GUESS ALL THAT SWIMMING'S GOOD FOR THE BICEPS.



ANOTHER SECOND, AND I'LL BE--

CONTINUED ON 380 PAGE FOLLOWING.



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NC 34



A PLANT. A VEGETABLE.
A MUCK-ENCRUSTED ~~END~~
OF A MAN.
THAT'S ALL HE EVER WAS.
THAT'S ALL HE'LL ~~EVER~~ BE.

IT STARTED WITH

"THE ANATOMY LESSON"

THE SENSATIONAL TALE WHERE
HE LEARNED THE TRUTH
ABOUT HIMSELF.

AND HE DOESN'T LIKE IT.
HE DOESN'T LIKE IT AT ALL.

THE SAGA OF THE SWAMP THING

BY EAGLE AWARD-WINNING WRITER ALAN MOORE
AND ARTISTS STEPHEN BASKYFISH & JOHN TOTTERSON

EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT IT--
MAKE SURE YOU ARE TOO!!

THE NEW DC. THERE'S NO STOPPING US NOW!

ANOTHER
SECOND!

THAT IS PRECISELY WHAT JOHNNY
QUICK AND NEPTUNE PERKINS DO
NOT HAVE, BEFORE THE HIGH-
VOLTAGE CHARGE HURLS THEM
BOTH INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS--

--EVEN AS THEY ARE PULLED
SWIFTLY, REMORSELESSLY,
TOWARD THE RESTING SUBMARINE.

SOME KIND OF DISTURBANCE
BELOW. THE WATER'S
POSITIVELY CHURNING.

AND
NOBODY'S
COMING
UP.

THEN DANETTE
REILLY, ALIAS
FIREBRAND, IS
GOING DOWN.

LORD, BUT IT'S COLD!
I'D PROBABLY BE
FREEZING, IF MY
FIERY METABOLISM
WEREN'T KEEPING
ME WARM.

AND SINCE I WON'T
DO THE CAUSE MUCH
GOOD BY DROWNING
LIKE A CAT IN A
SACK--

NICE TO KNOW--
BUT WITHOUT MY
FIREPOWER, I CAN'T
SEE A BLESSED THING
DOWN HERE NOW.

--I'D BETTER GO BACK TOWARD--

NOBODY IN SIGHT--?

AND I'M NO
GREAT SWIMMER
LIKE THAT
PERKINS KID--
OR EVEN
LIBERTY BELLE--!

MY ONLY CHANCE IS
TO REACH PERKINS'
HOUSEBOAT--AND
GO GET HELA.

GOD, IF ONLY BELLE AND
STARMAN WOULD SHOW
UP-- BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE--!



WHAT IS MORE, IT PLEASES ME THAT SOMEONE FROM YOUR COUNTRY SHOULD KNOW PRECISELY WHY THAT SITE WAS CHOSEN FOR THE FIRST IMPERIAL JAPANESE ATTACK ON THE AMERICAN MAINLAND;

*A VERY FEW YEARS AGO, WHEN OUR TWO NATIONS WERE AT PEACE, I COMMANDED A TANKER WHICH LANDED HERE TO PICK UP A CARGO OF CRUDE OIL.



HOBBS 1964



DO NOT TRY TO ESCAPE!!

NOT TO WORRY
WET HEAD

I DONT
GET A
WORD
THEY'RE
SAY N'.



THEN
PERHAPS YOU
WILL SPEAK TO
ME, YANKEE?

WH--?



LOOKS LIKE WE'RE
MOVIN' UP IN THE
WORLD, PERKINS

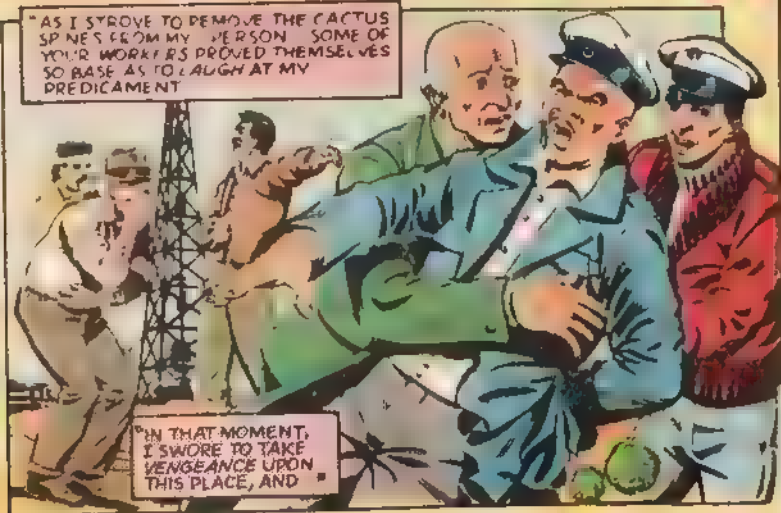
CAPTAIN KIDO
NISHINO AT YOUR
HUMBLE SERVICE..

...COMMANDER
OF THE
SUBMARINE
I-17, OF THE
SIXTH FLEET

"IN THOSE DAYS BEFORE YOUR TREACHEROUS GOVERNMENT
REFUSED TO EXPORT OIL TO JAPAN, I WAS RECEIVED WITH
DUE HONOR AT A FORMAL CEREMONY OF LOCAL OFFICIALS.

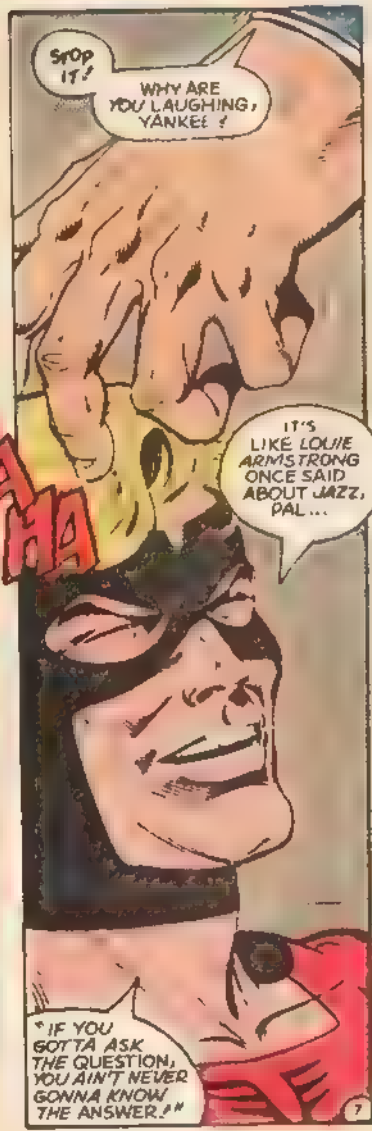


"AS I STROVE TO REMOVE THE CACTUS
SPINES FROM MY PERSON, SOME OF
YOUR WORKERS PROVED THEMSELVES
SO BASE AS TO LAUGH AT MY
PREDICAMENT.



"IN THAT MOMENT,
I SWORE TO TAKE
VENGEANCE UPON
THIS PLACE, AND

*A MORE OR LESS TRUE STORY. --R.T.C.



STOP
IT!

WHY ARE
YOU LAUGHING,
YANKEE?

IT'S
LIKE LOUIE
ARMSTRONG
ONCE SAID
ABOUT JAZZ,
PAL...

*IF YOU
GOTTA ASK
THE QUESTION,
YOU AIN'T NEVER
GONNA KNOW
THE ANSWER.*

THEN I WILL CONTENT MYSELF, YANKEE BY MERELY OBSERVING HOW LONG YOU GO ON LAUGHING WHEN THE FACILITIES ON SHORE GO UP IN FIRE AND SMOKE.

--AND IF YOUR LAUGHTER FADES WHEN I THEN EXECUTE BOTH OF YOU AS SPIES.

YEAH, I KNEW YOU MIGHT GET AROUND TO THAT.

PREPARE TO SURFACE SO WE MAY SHELL THE AMERICAN COAST!

WELL, PERKINS WISH I COULD SAY IT'S BEEN NICE KNOWIN' YA-- BUT I WILL SAY YOU'RE THE GREATEST THING I'VE SEEN IN THE WATER SINCE BILLY ROSE'S AQUACADE.

IF IT IS ALL THE SAME TO YOU, QUIC, I WOULD PREFER TO FACE MY COMING DEATH IN SILENCE.

YEESS! THERE'S JUST NO BEING FRIENDLY TO SOME FOLKS!

FROM AN UNLIKELY SIGHT TO A SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE ONE.

TWIN EARTHS, MOVING SLOWLY, RELENTLESSLY, RESISTIBLY TOWARD EACH OTHER, IN SOME ORDINARILY INVISIBLE DIMENSION BETWEEN UNIVERSES.

WHEN THEY INEVITABLY MEET-- WHEN THEY TRY, INCONCEIVABLY TO OCCUPY THE SAME SPACE AT THE SAME TIME, AGAINST ALL THE LAWS OF PHYSICS-- BOTH WILL BE DESTROYED.

YET ONE GHOSTLY FIGURE DOES RESIST THE COMING TOGETHER OF THE EARTHS, WITH ALL HIS SUPERNATURAL MIGHT.

THOUGH IT COSTS HIM DEAR.

ALMIGHTY ONE! CREATOR! WHY WILL YOU NOT ANSWER YOUR SERVANT'S CRY?

WILL YOU LET UNTOLD BILLIONS OF PEOPLE PERISH-- FOR THE SIN OF ONE MAN WHO HAS ALREADY DIED UPON ONE OF THOSE WORLDS.

MYSELF?

IT WAS I WHO CARRIED SEVEN MORTALS FROM ONE EARTH TO ANOTHER WHICH SEEMED IN SURE NEED OF THEM.

--I WHO, IN JOURNEYING BETWEEN THEM, OPENED THE DOOR TO DISASTER.

SO THAT TWO EARTHS NOW HURTLE HEAVY LONG ON A COLLISION PATH.

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

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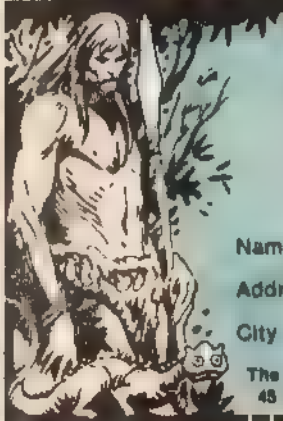
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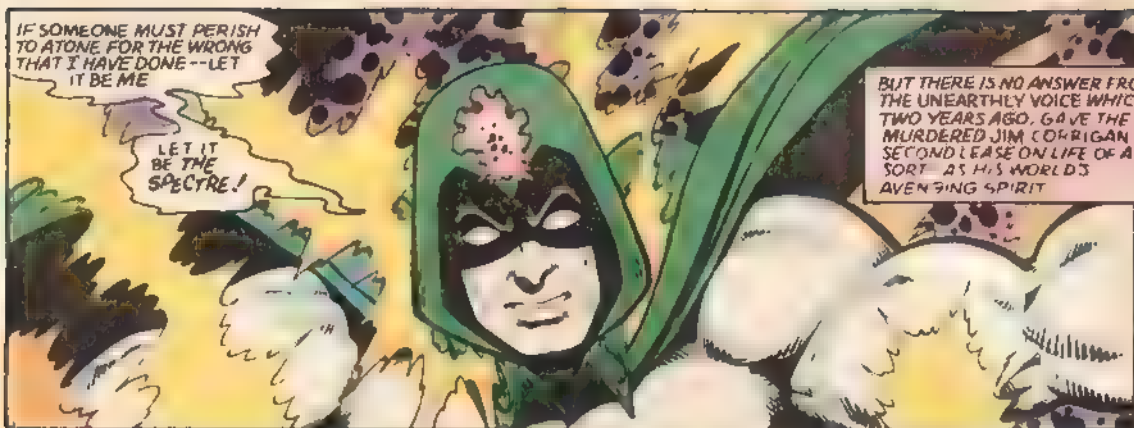
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IF SOMEONE MUST PERISH
TO ATONE FOR THE WRONG
THAT I HAVE DONE--LET
IT BE ME

LET IT
BE THE
SPECTRE!

BUT THERE IS NO ANSWER FROM
THE UNEARTHLY VOICE WHICH,
TWO YEARS AGO, GAVE THE
MURDERED JIM CORRIGAN A
SECOND LEASE ON LIFE OF A
SORT--AS HIS WORLD'S
AVENGING SPIRIT

THEN, IN HIS PAIN, THE SPECTRE'S
MIND DARTS TO THE SECOND OF
THESE WORLDS--THE ONE CALLED
EARTH-X, TO WHICH HE TRANS-
PORTED SEVEN OF THE ALL-
STAR SQUADRON--



ARRRGH

--AND THE AGONY OF THE BODY
BECOMES AGONY OF THE SOUL
AS WELL.



DIDN'T YOU
HEAR ME, PEOPLE?
I'M THROUGH, NO MATTER
WHAT YOU DO--SO
GET HIM!

**GET BARON
BLITZKRIEG!**

NO ANSWER UNLESS IT BE THE VIBRATIONS OF A TORTURED ETHER, AS TWO ALL BUT IDENTICAL EARTH'S MOVE NEARER, EVER NEARER TO A FATEFUL DESTRUCTIVE IMPACT--

--HELD APART BY THE ECTOPLASMIC FORM OF ONE WHO WOULD SEEM A GIANT TO ANY OF EITHER WORLD'S UNSUSPECTING INHABITANTS--

-YET WHO IS, AT THE SAME TIME STRANGELY DWARFED BY PARALLEL SPHERES, EACH SOME 25 000 MILES IN CIRCUMFERENCE

UNCLE SAM-- YOU SAID THAT'S THE HOURMAN??

BUT YOU TOLD US HE'D BEEN KILLED ON THIS EARTH-- NEARLY THREE MONTHS AGO!

SO WHAT'S HE DOING STRAPPED TO A GUN ON A JAPANESE DESTROYER IN THE MIDDLE OF AN INVASION OF CALIFORNIA??

WHAT MATTERS IS-- HE'S ALIVE!

AND YOUR OLD UNCLE HERE MEANS TO KEEP HIM THAT WAY-- SINCE I THOUGHT I'D LED HIM TO HIS DEATH LAST DECEMBER!

VERDAMMTE FOOLS! YOU WILL COUNT YOURSELVES UNBEJEVABLY FORTUNATE IF YOU YOURSELVES ARE STILL AMONG THE LIVING WHEN THE COMING NIGHT IS DONE!

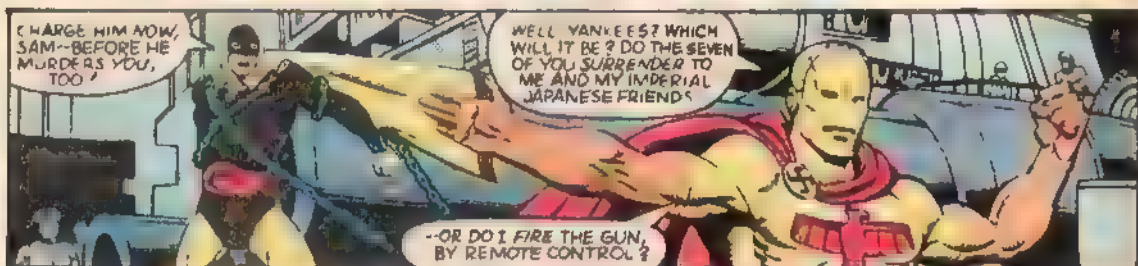


YOU KNOW, FELLAS--THAT SOUNDS SUSPICIOUSLY LIKE A THREAT TO ME!

LET ME AT THAT--

BLACK CONDOR, NO? THAT NAZI VARMINT WOULDN'T BE SO COCKY, IF N HE WEREN'T READY TO BLOW HOURMAN TO RAINBOW COME. LET HIM TALK.

FUNNY, WHY'S TIKK TOCK TYLER SWEATING SO ALL-FIRED HEAVY?



CHARGE HIM NOW, SAM--BEFORE HE MURDERS YOU, TOO!

WELL, YANKEES? WHICH WILL IT BE? DO THE SEVEN OF YOU SURRENDER TO ME AND MY IMPERIAL JAPANESE FRIENDS?

--OR DO I FIRE THE GUN, BY REMOTE CONTROL?



LET HIM DO IT, SAM! I'M NO GOOD TO YOU NO GOOD TO ANYBODY!

CREAM BLITZKRIEG AND HIS AXIS BUDDIES, BESIDES!



IT'S YOUR SHOW, UNCLE!

CHECK! YOU GIVE THE ORDERS, WE'LL FOLLOW 'EM.

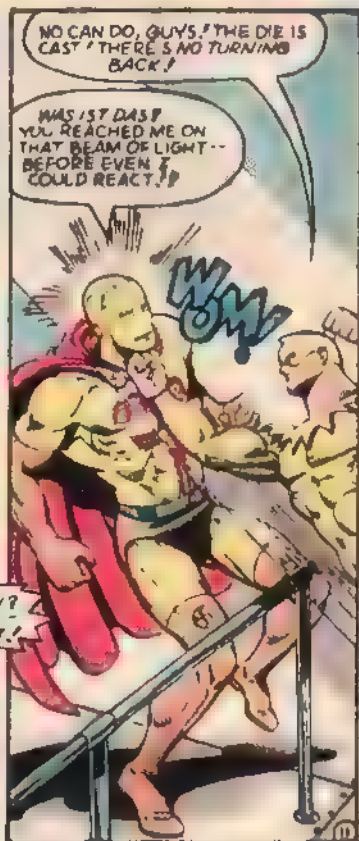
THROUGH THAT CLOUD--THE LAST CLEAR DAYS OF THE SETTING SUN.



DOES THE RAY NEED A BETTER CLUE TO TAKE OFF AFTER THE SONS OF THE RISING SUN--AND FRIEND?

ALL RIGHT, NAZI, WE--

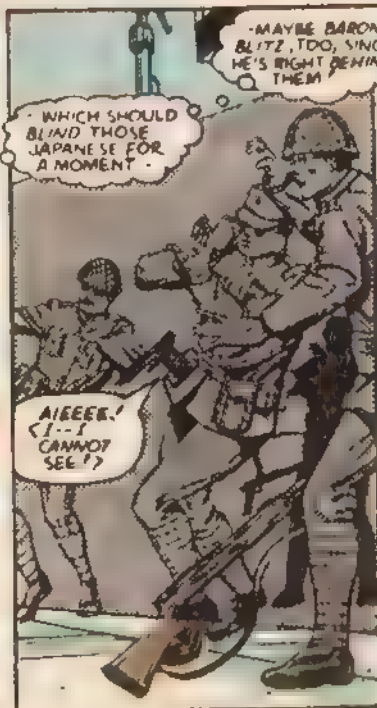
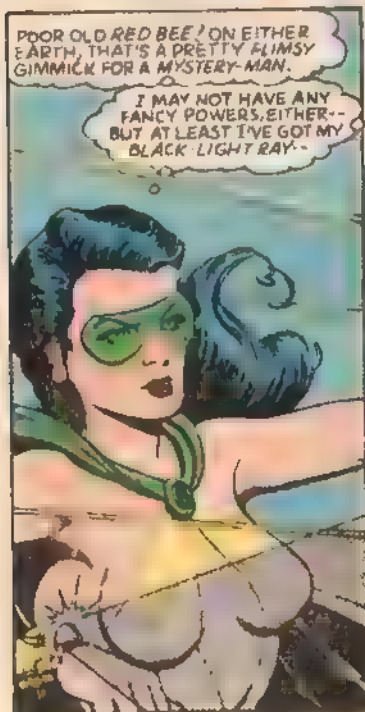
HUH? RAY--WAIT.



NO CAN DO, GUYS! THE DIE IS CAST! THERE'S NO TURNING BACK!

WAS IST DAS? YOU REACHED ME ON THAT BEAM OF LIGHT--BEFORE EVEN I COULD REACT!

WOW!



BUT YOU DON'T HEAR THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS CRYING IN OUR DEER DO VEH?

JUST KEEP HOLD OF HIM--TILL WE CAN SEE AGAIN!

MEIN 'I CANNOT BE BLINDED--NOT AGAIN, 'K

HE HE'S STRONG! DON'T KNOW HOW LONG--!

THE BARON BECAME HYSTERICALLY BE NOED AT THE CLIMAX OF ISSUE #9 Roy

TIME FOR THE HUMAN BOMB TO BURST ONTO THE SCENE!

BEEN HOLDING BACK-- AFRAID I MIGHT ACCIDENTALLY HURT MY ALL STAR BUDDIES WITH MY EXPLOSIVE TOUCH--

BUT NOW, AS THEY SAY THE GLOVES ARE OFF--

--OR ONE OF THEM IS, ANYWAY 'I WASN'T HIT BY SANDRA'S BLINKLIGHT-- SO IF I CAN JUST GRAB ON TO BLITZKRIEG--!

CANNOT SEE 'BUT I KNOW THE HOLZMAN'S CHAINS ARE DIRECTLY ABOVE ME SO

COULD 'CERTAINLY' HANDLE HIM!

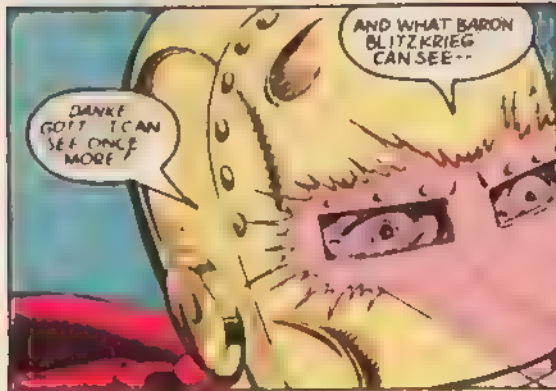
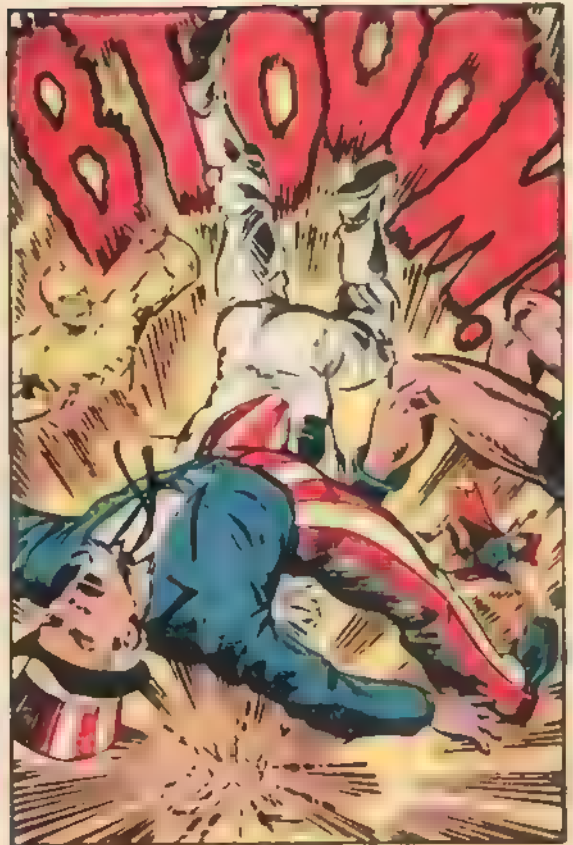
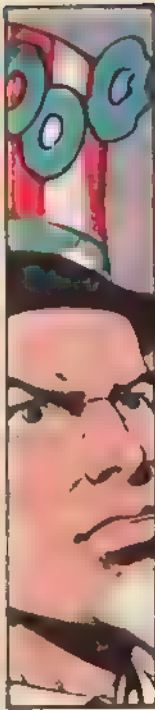
MY GUD THAT NAZ 'LAST' GRASPING MY ARM-- MY SHEER LUCK--!

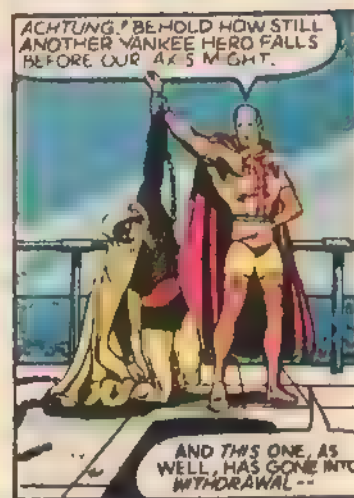
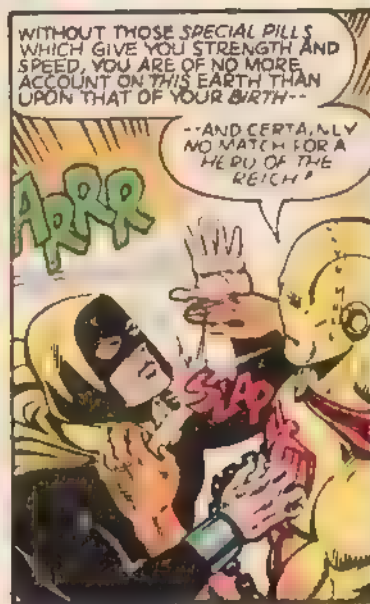
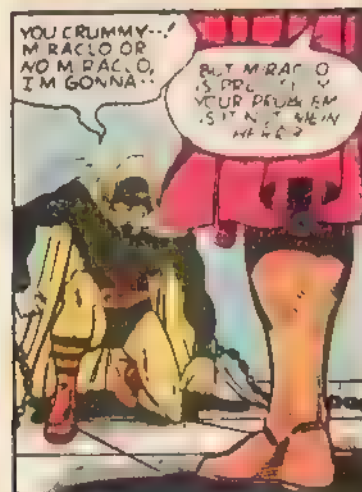
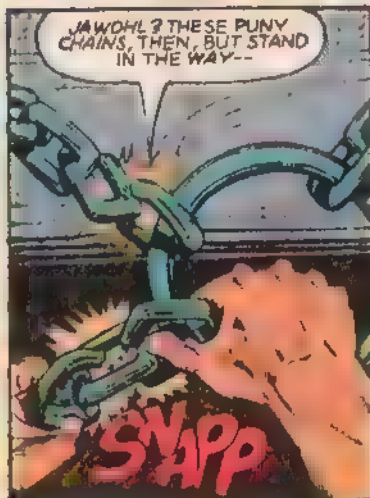
FOOL! PERHAPS I CANNOT SEE YET

BUT I CAN STILL CONTROL MY ACROSS ALL SORTS OF ENERGY AT ANY GIVEN MOMENT

AND THAT MIGHT BE WHAT YOU WARRIORS CALL A SCOF THE HILL!

NO!



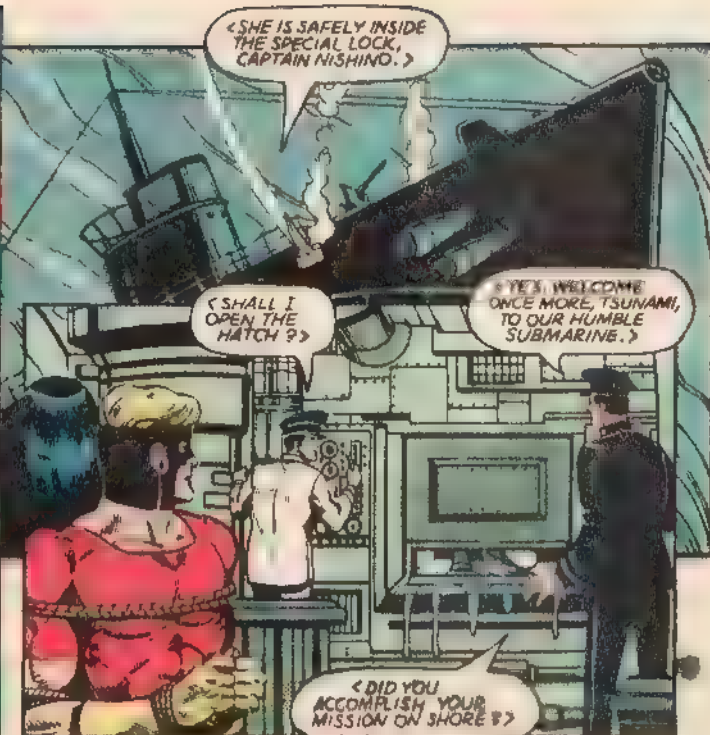




WHILE FIGHTING A LONELY BATTLE BETWEEN TWO EARTHS, THE DESPERATE SPECTRE THINKS OF THOSE FRIENDS WHO, ALONG WITH BILLIONS OF OTHERS, WILL BE DOOMED IF HE FAILS--



--AND HE STRIVES ALL THE HARDER!



<SHE IS SAFELY INSIDE THE SPECIAL LOCK, CAPTAIN NISHINO.>

<SHALL I OPEN THE HATCH?>

<YES, WELCOME ONCE MORE, TSUNAMI, TO OUR HUMBLE SUBMARINE.>

<DID YOU ACCOMPLISH YOUR MISSION ON SHORE?>



<UNFORTUNATELY NOT THE FOOLHARDY ISSEI-- EVEN THE NISEI ARE DISGUSTINGLY LOYAL TO AMERICA.>

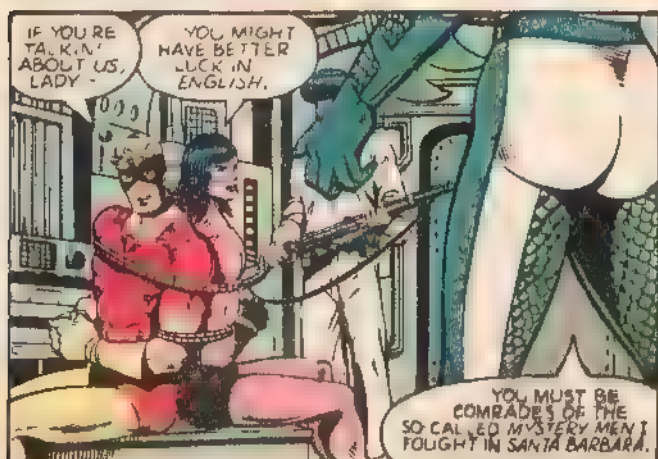
<I FEARED AS MUCH.>



<I TOLD ADMIRAL YAMAMOTO NO GOOD COULD COME OF BRINGING A WOMAN INTO WAR--NOT EVEN ONE SUCH AS YOU.>

<HAPPILY FOR THE EMPIRE, OUR HONORABLE ADMIRAL IS A WISER MAN THAN-->

<WHAT ARE THEY DOING HERE??>



IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT US, LADY--

YOU MIGHT HAVE BETTER LUCK IN ENGLISH.

YOU MUST BE COMRADES OF THE SO CALLED MYSTERY MEN I FOUGHT IN SANTA BARBARA.



HUH? THAT MUST MEAN STARMAN-- AND BELLE!

WHERE ARE THEY?

SAY IT!



EVENTS HAVE DECIDED THAT I HAVE HURT PERMANENTLY. I CAN NO LONGER FATHER ENOUGH YANKEES

DO NOT PROVOKE TSUNAMI, IF YOU VALUE YOUR WRETCHED LIVES.

WHICH CACTUS-PANTS THERE SAYS AREN'T WORTH A PLUGGED NICKEL, ANYWAY?

I AM CALLED NEPTUNE PERKINS, GUN. AND I TOO AM OF THE SEA. TELL ME HOW DID YOU GAIN SUCH MASTERY OF SWIMMING--



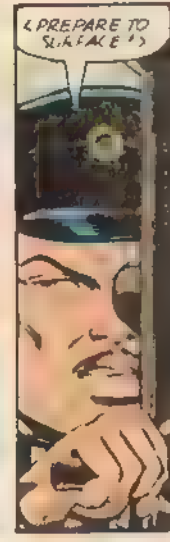
THAT YOU CAN BOARD A SUBMERGED VESSEL?

PRAY YOU NEVER FIND OUT, YANKEE.

(S. ENCE TSUNAMI --)



I HAVE THE OILFIELDS IN SIGHT



(PREPARE TO SURFACE)



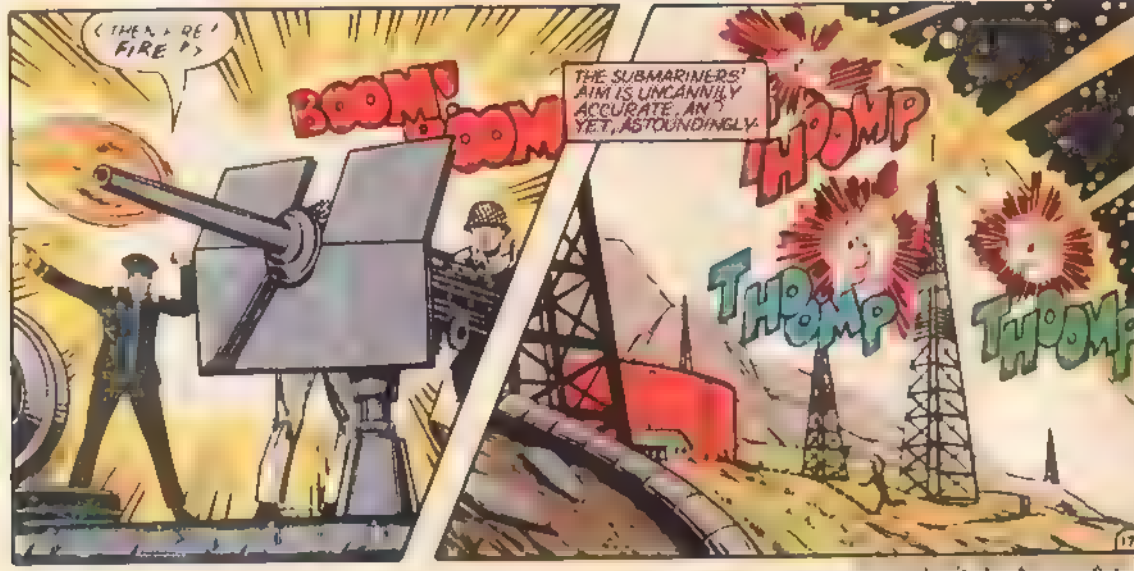
MOMENTS LATER, THE SIGN OF THE RISING SUN GLEAMS BENEATH A CALIFORNIA



AND MOUNTED GUNS GLISTEN UPON BRASS WASHED DECKS

(MERRY! THE MOMENT OF MY REVENGE--AND THE EMPIRE'S--IS AT HAND)

(A. S. N. REVENGE CAPTAIN)



(THEN RE FIRE)

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THOMP THOMP THOMP

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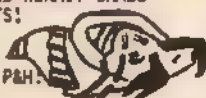
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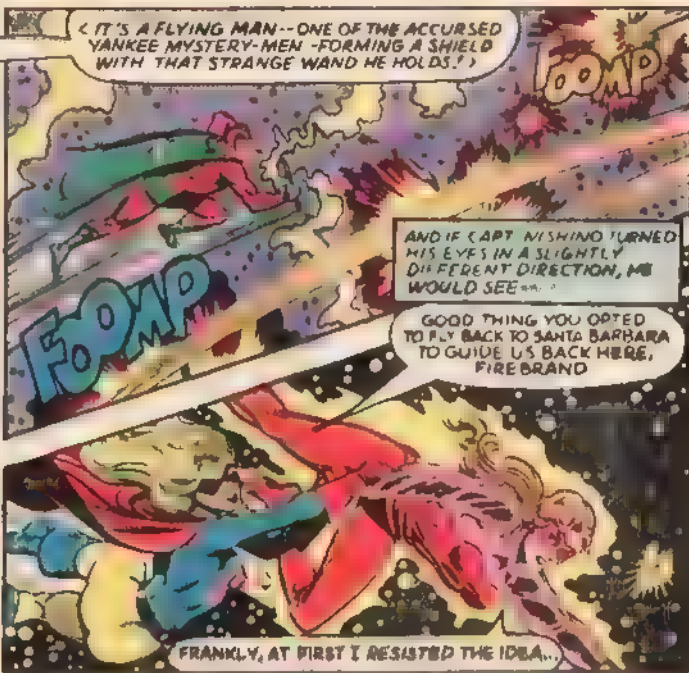
STORES!

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'IMPOSSIBLE!' IT'S ALMOST AS IF SOME INVISIBLE WALL WERE STOPPING THE SHELLS THEY

'WAIT! NOW I SEE WHAT THE CAUSE IS!'



< IT'S A FLYING MAN--ONE OF THE ACCURSED YANKEE MYSTERY-MEN--FORMING A SHIELD WITH THAT STRANGE WAND HE HOLDS! >

FOOMP

FOOMP

AND IF CAPT. NISHINO TURNED HIS EYES IN A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT DIRECTION, HE WOULD SEE--

GOOD THING YOU OPTED TO FLY BACK TO SANTA BARBARA TO GUIDE US BACK HERE, FIREBRAND

FRANKLY, AT FIRST I RESISTED THE IDEA...



BUT THEN I KNOCKED MY EGO OUT OF THE WAY, AND GOT DOWN TO BEING AN ALL-STAR.

JOHNNY QUICK MAY BE KIND OF A GRANDSTANDER HIMSELF, BUT THOSE AXIS RATS DOWN THERE'VE EITHER KILLED HIM OR CAPTURED HIM.



--AND EITHER WAY, THEY'RE GONNA PAY!

< BY THE EMPEROR'S FIRE FROM THE SKY--MELTING OUR GUNS! >



THIS CONNING-TOWER'S NOT GOING TO DO THEM MUCH GOOD, EITHER-- WITHOUT A PERISCOPE.

GREAT! BUT THE MAIN THING IS TO STOP THEM FROM--



TOO LATE!

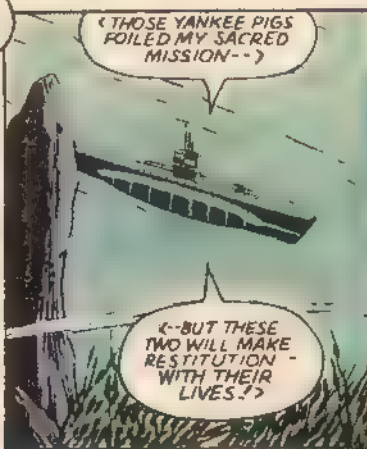
KANK!

BRANDY! BETTER LIFT ME OFF THIS BUCKET!



ONE
FREE RIDE
COMING
UP!

IS JOHNNY
ABOARD THAT SUB--
ALIVE? I'VE GOT TO
FIND OUT!



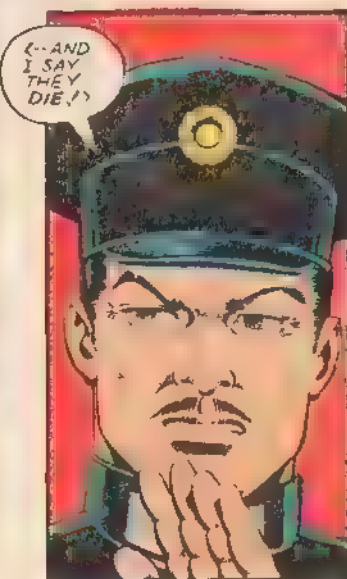
<THOSE YANKEE PIGS
FOILED MY SACRED
MISSION-->

<--BUT THESE
TWO WILL MAKE
RESTITUTION -
WITH THEIR
LIVES!>

<IS THAT ADVISABLE, CAPTAIN?
YOU SAY ONE OF THEM HAS
AQUATIC POWERS, NOT UNLIKE
MY OWN.>

<WOULD IT NOT
BE PREFERABLE
TO TAKE THEM
BACK TO TOKYO,
WHERE--?>

<BE SILENT!>



<--AND
I SAY
THEY
DIE!>



<I AM CAPTAIN OF
THE I-17, WOMAN,
NOT YOU-->

DON'T NEED A TRANSLATOR
TO GET THE GIST OF THAT LITTLE
TIRADE, HUH, PERKINS?

YOU ARE A BRAVE
MAN QUICK, FOR ALL
YOUR FLIPPANCY.

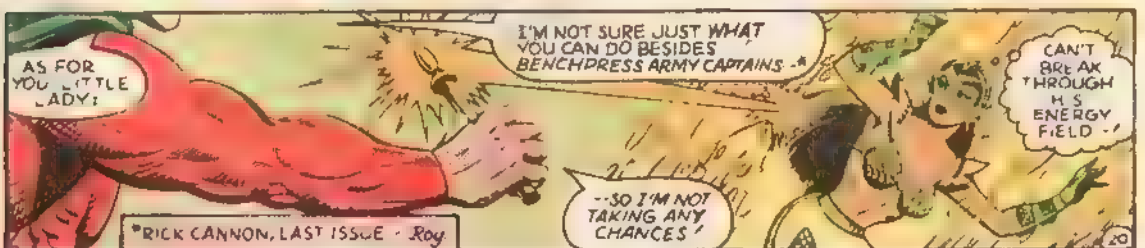
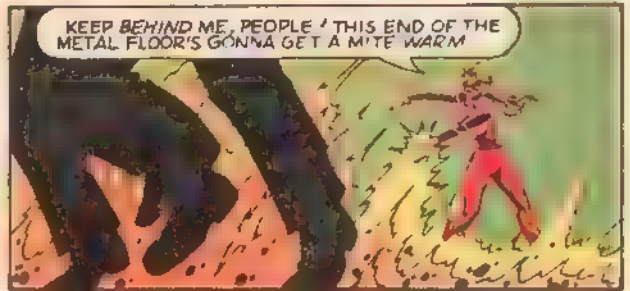
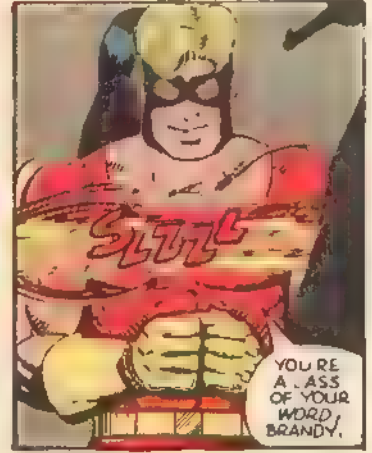
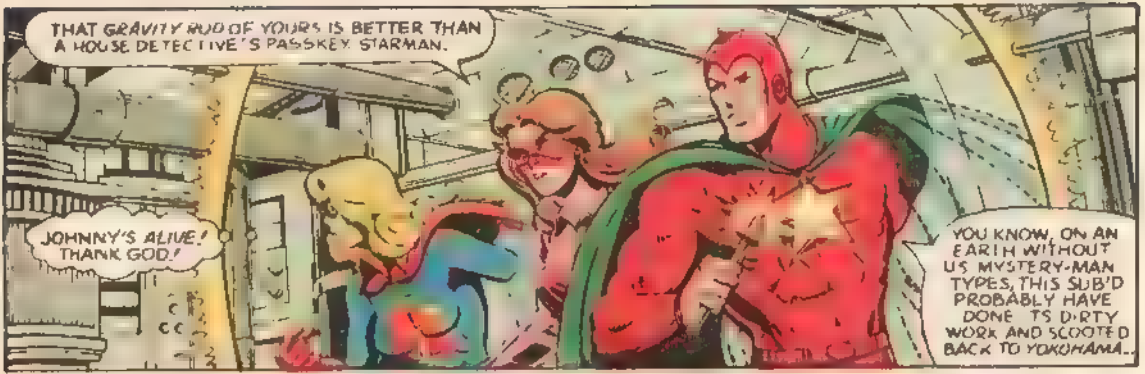
YEAH. THEY CAN
CARVE THAT ON
MY TOMBSTONE.

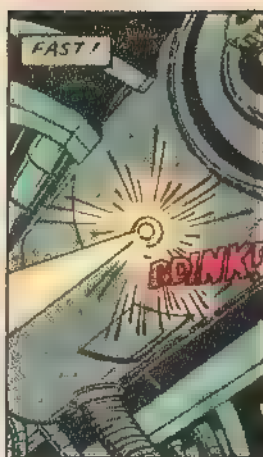
<KILL
THEM!>

<YIPPI!! MY
PISTOL--SOMETHING
IS DISSOLVING IT--
IN MY VERY HAND!>

<LOOK
THERE!>









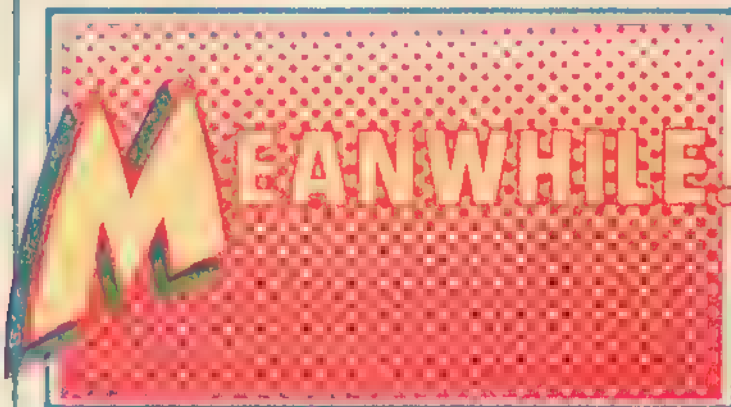
***By Gary Cohn, Dan Mishkin,
Paris Cullins and Pablo Marcos.***

***We've made comics
fun again!***



The new DC. There's no stopping us now!

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Next year, 1985, DC Comics will embark upon a year-long celebration of its 50th anniversary. (More on that later.) Despite this irrefutable evidence of longevity, I tend to think of DC as a young company. The New DC is more than a slogan. It describes a radical change in our company's operating philosophies and in the nature of our publishing ventures. It started just two short years ago when DC Comics made a commitment to the creative community and the public that henceforth DC Comics wanted to publish comics that would make the creators proud and appeal to the readers. Since then we've had some hits and a few misses. We'll probably have more of both, but the commitment that we made two years ago will endure... and grow... because, you see, we are a young company and everyone knows that youngster's usually grow and mature.

1984 promises to be a year of growth and fun. We started firming up our plans for the year just after coming out of hiding. (It took a few weeks to be convinced that big brother really wasn't watching us!), and I thought that this column, the first I write after the new year, would be a good place to start telling you about a few of those plans. (A quick aside, we have forty or so different projects in various stages of development so this will just scratch the surface!)



New Gods. Jack Kirby has returned to DC just in time to see his creation reprinted in a format that will do it justice. The deluxe format series (\$2.00 cover price) will reprint **New Gods** nos. 1-11 in six 48-page books with issue six featuring an all-new story written and drawn by Jack that will tie up the loose ends. King Kirby will also design six new covers for the series (some of them wraparounds) and perhaps some new pin-up pages or collages to enhance the interior art. Issue #1 is cover-dated June and will be on sale March 15th. Subsequent issues will be released monthly.

While we are on the subject of reprints, I think I'd like to take a few

lines to talk about DC's philosophy about reprints. Bear with me... I'll try not to sound too self-congratulatory.



First off, we pay the highest reprint rates currently being paid to creators. This means that the difference in cost to us between all new art, and reprinting existing art has been narrowed to the point that there exists no overwhelming profit motive to reprint, since production and shipping costs are fixed. Secondly, we choose only material that deserves to be reprinted... material that has withstood the test of time and has, in our opinion, earned the status of "classic" and we'll only release one title per month. Last, we heap lots of T.L.C. on these best of DC's past... we give the material the attention it deserves, and, wherever possible, invite the original creator(s) to join us in preparing the material for publication. I'm glad to say that, to date, that's happened for our first three deluxe format reprints. Neal Adams provided new full-color covers for five of the six **Green Lantern - Green Arrow** reprints and colors for all six. Denny O'Neil wrote a text piece for the same project. Walt Simonson drew a new cover for **Manhunter** and I've just detailed Jack Kirby's involvement in **New Gods**.

In short, we do it as well as we can... a celebration of a past great event in comics history. Join us in that celebration, won't you?



Onward!

Blue Devil was created by Gary Cohn and Dan Mishkin and drawn by Paris Cullins. This should be a lot of fun. It's about a Hollywood stuntman and creator of monster costumes who creates the ultimate monster costume for a movie called... **The Blue Devil** and... well, why spoil the fun? **Blue Devil** will debut on the June schedule with a free preview slated for the **Fury of Firestorm #24** and issue number one of **Blue Devil**, releasing later in the

same month. It'll be in the Mando format, U.S. cover price: 75¢.

And, oh, yeah! Take a good look at Paris Cullins' art. A youngster from Philly, loaded with talent. A probable star of the not-too-distant future.



Sword of the Atom Special #1. Not content with the success of the recent mini-series of the same title, creative team Jan Strnad and Gil Kane surrounded me at lunch during a recent Kansas City convention (Jan's from that neck of the woods) and convinced me that they had to take the story line one step further to achieve true and lasting satisfaction. No argument from me. Matter of fact, the story that they unfolded at that lunch table sounded real good to me. Loaded with plot twists and a truly surprising ending, this 48-page Mando special will have a U.S. cover price of \$1.25 and will go on sale sometime in the spring and if you enjoyed Gil's exciting art (many readers wrote in to say it was Gil's best ever!) and Jan's literate scripting on the recently completed **Sword of the Atom** mini-series, this one's a must!



"More on that later" Department

It's too early to give you all the details of our upcoming 50th Anniversary celebration, but I can tell you that it will include as many as 20 special issues of regular titles; a 50th anniversary logo which will identify these specials; 12 handbooks of who's who in the DC Universe; and the previously announced **Mystery of the DC Universe** maxi-series. We felt it appropriate to save this blockbuster maxi-series for this anniversary year because the changes in our universe and the startling events that will unfold within its pages will alter forever the DC universe and provide some wonderful stepping stones for the next 50 years. Clue: look for odd occurrences in DC titles from now till the end of this year. They'll provide additional clues as to the who, what, where, when and why of the DC Universe maxi-series and the 24 planned handbooks. Bob Greenberger, who has just rejoined our staff (welcome back, Bob), will assist them, and Peter Sanderson spent the better part of 18 months in our library doing the research that made it all possible.

Whew!

Thank you and Good Afternoon.

Dick

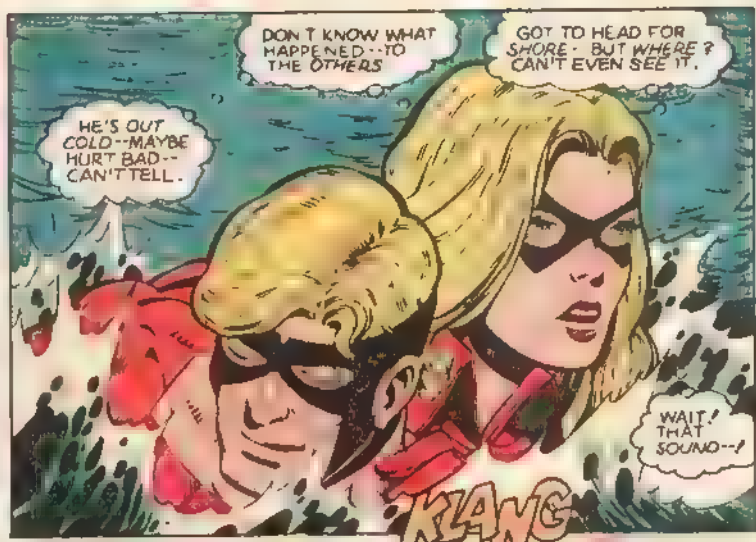


FINALLY,
BENEATH A
STAR STREWN
SKY



TWO SPECKS OF
LIFE APPEAR

...GASP!
JOHNNY?



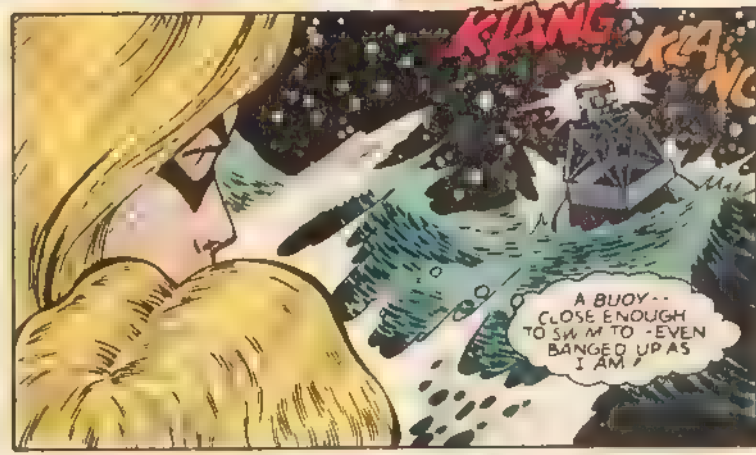
DON'T KNOW WHAT
HAPPENED--TO
THE OTHERS

GOT TO HEAD FOR
SHORE-- BUT WHERE?
CAN'T EVEN SEE IT.

HE'S OUT
COLD--MAYBE
HURT BAD--
CAN'T TELL.

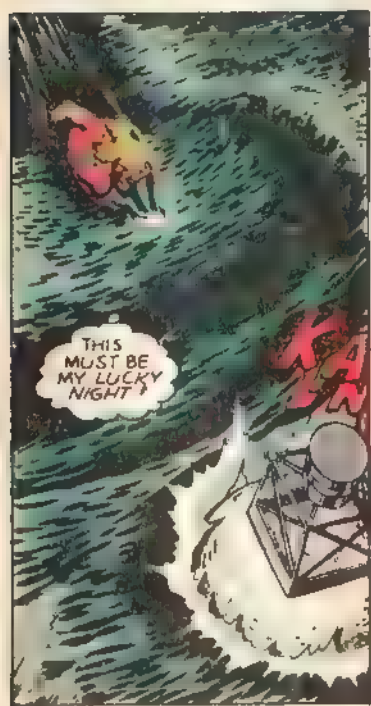
WAIT!
THAT
SOUND--!

KLANG

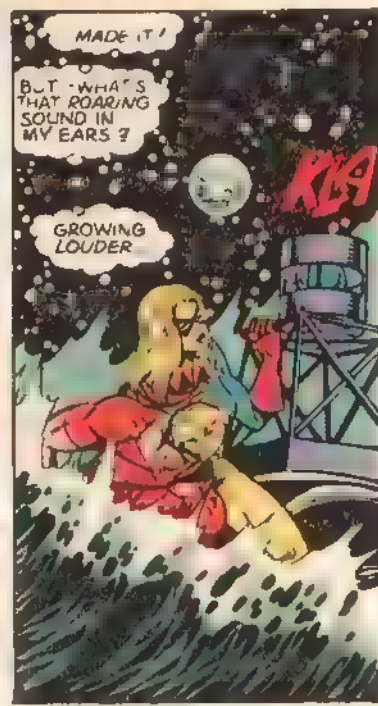


KLANG KLANG

A BUOY--
CLOSE ENOUGH
TO SWIM TO--EVEN
BANGED UP AS
I AM



THIS
MUST BE
MY LUCKY
NIGHT!

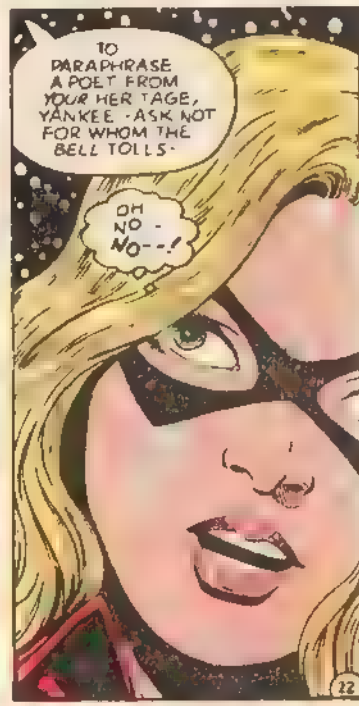


MADE IT!

BUT--WHAT'S
THAT ROARING
SOUND IN
MY EARS?

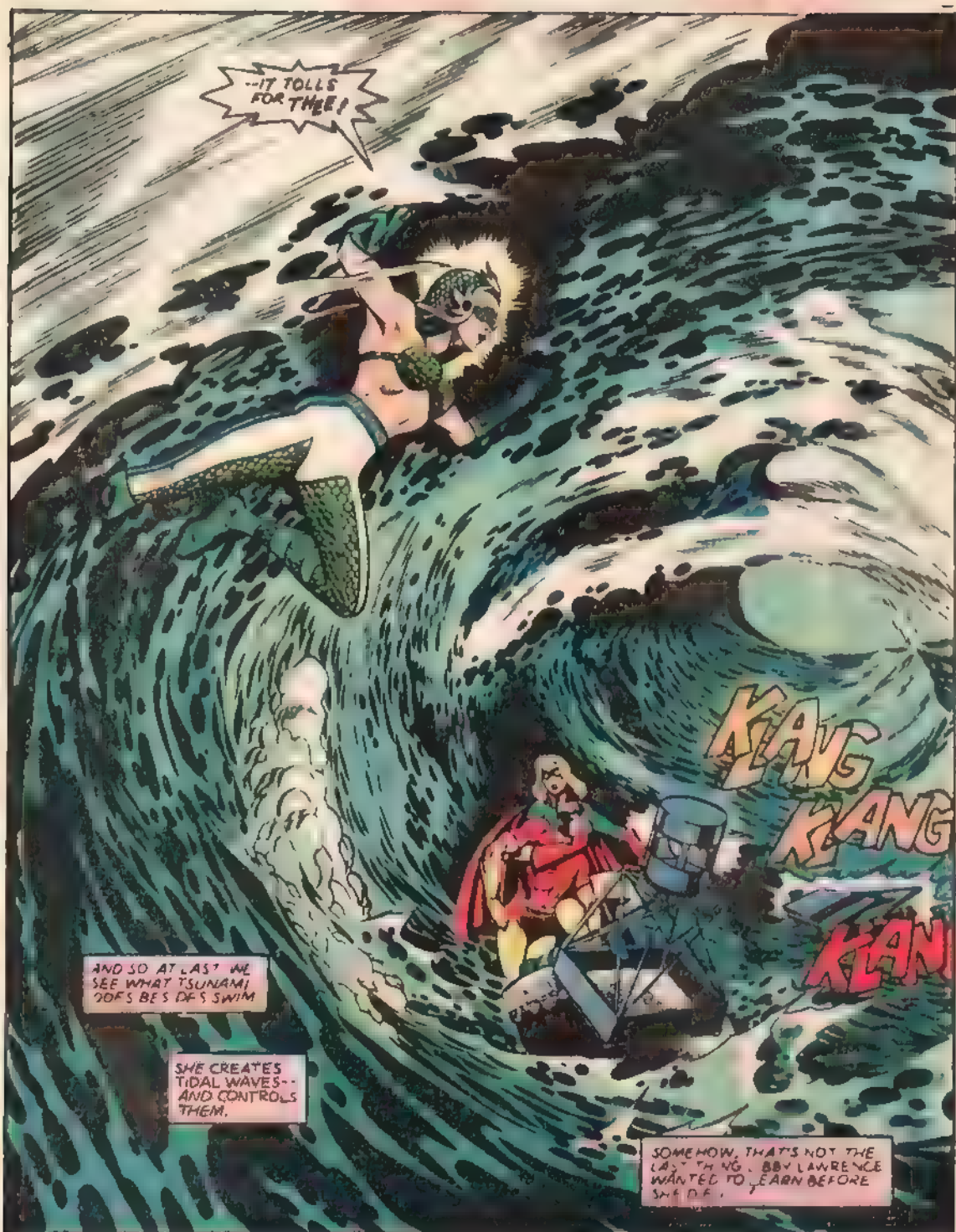
GROWING
LOUDER

KLANG



TO
PARAPHRASE
A POET FROM
YOUR HER TAGE,
YANKEE--ASK NOT
FOR WHOM THE
BELL TOLLS--

OH NO--!!



...IT TOLLS
FOR THEE!

AND SO AT LAST WE
SEE WHAT TSUNAMI
DOES BE'S DE'S SWIM

SHE CREATES
TIDAL WAVES--
AND CONTROLS
THEM.

KLANG
KLANG
KLANG

SOMEHOW, THAT'S NOT THE
LAST THING. BBV LAWRENCE
WANTED TO EARN BEFORE
SHE DIED.

next issue:

**FOR TWIN EARTHS TO LIVE--
ONE ALL-STAR MUST DIE!** (AT
THE
VERY
LEAST!)



DC Comics Inc.
666 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10103

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Dear Roy:

Ah, the Seven Soldiers of Victory! What a refreshing change of pace from the usual ALL-STAR SQUADRON sagas (not that *those* aren't great, as well!). What with the seemingly constant rearranging of the All-Stars' membership, it was nice just to see a basic retelling of a Golden Age classic with just seven characters. And you even got Jerry Ordway to pencil it!

A nice distinction about this tale was your changing the Green Arrow's hair color (Speedy's, too—his hair color in the Golden Age comics was orange/red, and Oliver Queen's was blond, just like today's Earth-One versions).

Aside from that, the characterization of the Soldiers was perfect, from the conversation at the beginning-of-the-case meeting, right down to the final declaration of the Shining Knight. I, for one, was glad that you edited the solo chapters down to one page apiece. Outside of the Golden Age JSA stories I've read, I've never really liked the idea of a team splitting up for most of the adventure, and the reuniting again only for the capture, as if to justify the team's existence in the first place.

As for the villain of the piece—*Doctor Doom!*? WHAT?? Who are you trying to kid? I—just kidding myself, Roy! It's obvious that whoever wrote the original story for LEADING COMICS #3 in 1942 made up the name himself—about twenty years ahead of his time, wouldn't you say?

As far as the art goes: ALL RIGHT! Mucho thanks for getting Jerry back for at least this one issue. And you know, I enjoyed Rick Magyar's inking on this issue even more than I do Mike Machlan's, though it'll be nice to see Machlan's work next issue.

Evan M. Lanctot
45 Powers Av.
San Francisco, CA 94110

And the Ordway-Machlan team is going great guns right now in our new INFINITY, INC. title—on sale only in "direct outlets" or whatever they're called these days. You may especially like #4, now on sale, since there's a dramatic redrawing/re-presentation of a 1946 Gardner Fox/Joe Kubert Hawkman story, as well as new art and story!

Actually, we'd wanted to steer clear of LEADING #3 at first, because of Marvel's Dr. Doom—but since LEADING #2 had already been reprinted in JLA some years back, #3 it was.

Besides, it was fun to see a second (first?) D.D. whose initial gimmick was also time travel. We rather doubt you'll see Doome much in the, er, future, though—or if he does appear, we'll drop the name "Doctor" for the most part, since there are enough of those around anyway. (By the way, we suspect that Starman's 1942 Dr. Doog, who came out about the same time, was also originally called Dr. Doom, and that a lettering change was made at the last minute. Talk about a lot of minds on the same track!)

A final comment: Did you know that in early appearances both in MORE FUN COMICS and in the first two issues of LEADING, the original Green Arrow did have brown hair, and Speedy was a blond? That's why, despite the slight discontinuity with their JLA appearance a decade ago, we decided that the Earth-Two G.A. would be done that way in the future (past?). Thanks to you (and to Delmo Walters Jr. of the Bronx and Kevin Odom of Visalia, CA, as well as John Britten of Daly City, CA, and a few others) for pointing out our "error," but afraid 'twas not one, after all!

(On the other hand, we're very unhappy that the Earth-Two Vigilante's hat somehow got colored yellow instead of white—but we think we got it right in ish #31. Did we?—R.T.)

Dear All-Stars:

A reader speculated on what might happen if Elektro the Robot decided to rebel against his masters, the All-Star Squadron.

According to the 1939 New York Times, Elektro did rebel! Said inventor J.M. Barrett: "He's very human; if you don't talk to him right, he just doesn't do what you say." The Robot, who could walk, talk, count to ten, and smoke cigarettes, malfunctioned—walked backward instead of forward, and told people to "shut up." Editorial referring to Elektro's "rebellion" suggested the creation of dictator-proof human beings who would disobey orders and go to war.

Will Day
Bangor, ME

Thanks for the info, Will. We'll have to wait and see, though, what kind of personality Elektro ends up with, now that he's been reconditioned by Commander Steel and Robotman into "Gernsback," the All-Stars' butler and chief bottle-washer. Or maybe Westinghouse, the

company that developed the robot in the first place, will pop up some issue and want him back?—R.T.

Dear Roy and Co.:

Thank you for finally bringing us the Seven Soldiers of Victory! I know it must have been quite a treat for the younger and newer readers being introduced to a "new" group of heroes—and it's always nice for us "older" fans to see this "little-known/used" and short-lived, but just-as-legendary, group. I really loved the intro shot on page 3 (in the form of a "V" for Victory); the bottom panel on page 21, where Sir Justin recites the Round Table pledge; and especially the end panel of both Sir Justin and Sir Winston. Beautiful!

I put my vote in for a story in which you show the details of how the Seven Soldiers got together, and why *those* specific heroes, etc. In other words, an in-depth origin of the Seven Soldiers. I very eagerly await, too, the premier of INFINITY, INC. and still look forward to the appearance of Hourman.

Jay Elliott Jr.
Box 19381
Las Vegas, NV 89119

Hourman's back—and ALL-STAR SQUADRON's got 'im! (Also INFINITY, INC., to a lesser extent.) Maybe sometime we'll do an extended retelling of LEADING COMICS #1, which gave the origin of the Seven Soldiers of Victory, but that'll have to wait awhile. By the way, we wanted to thank letterer David Weiss (Cody) at this late date for his beautiful logo for the Soldiers. Would you believe that in fourteen issues of their own title from 1941 to 1945, they never had one? No wonder they never rose to the illustrious heights of the Justice Society! (Oh, yes—and we hope you don't mean that you think Winston Churchill was "Sir Winston" back in World War Two, Jay. That's a mistake we've seen in actual comics stories before, and it's sort of embarrassing. He wasn't knighted till years later.)—R.T.

Dear D.C. Guys,

But you're surprised getting a letter from a person down-under. I thought it was time to praise you for your great efforts on quite a few new series I collect, including ALL-STAR SQUADRON, which I think is the best group of super-heroes ever assembled. The

artwork, the setting, everything, is just too good to be true, but I was wondering if the All-Stars could make an appearance in Australia during times such as the bombing of Darwin and so forth. They'd sure have come in handy! Unfortunately, the latest issues I've gotten of ALL-STAR are the "Crisis on Earth-Prime" issues, and I nearly screamed when I found out it was continued from JUSTICE LEAGUE, since the JLA is printed here in a different format and time order.

Martin Powell
16 Grant Av. Ridgehaven
Adelaide, South Australia
5097

We couldn't work in a story about the attack on Port Darwin itself, of course, but we did mention it in the pages of ALL-STAR SQUADRON #31. Unlike many Americans (and most Russians), we don't think any single nation won the Second World War all by itself—R.T.

Dear Mr. Thomas:

Your ALL-STAR SQUADRON is a unique accomplishment which has, I'm happy to report, given me many hours of entertainment over the past few months.

I have, however, a small nit to pick with you (one which, actually, I regard as being quite serious), concerning your portrayal of Roosevelt and Churchill, which I find to be cloyingly idolatrous. Let me explain.

There is a growing body of historical evidence that suggests that FDR knew in advance that the Japanese were about to attack at Pearl Harbor and that, despite this foreknowledge, he did nothing to warn American troops there of the impending assault. Roosevelt had been hoping for a number of years for an "incident" that he could use as an excuse to draw America into the European war, but public opinion prior to December 7, 1941, had run four-to-one against American involvement. In not acting promptly on his knowledge of the Japanese plans to attack an American military installation in the Pacific, Roosevelt failed to live up to his oath to "preserve, protect, and defend" the Constitution, and ought to have been impeached.

Why did Roosevelt want American participation in what was then known as the "European" war? Certainly not for the idealistic reasons you've chosen to portray in your magazine; that is to say, FDR was not interested in destroying Nazism because he hated tyranny *per se*. Notice that he was more than willing to join forces with the Soviet Union, which was every bit as dictatorial and totalitarian as the Nazi regime. Hitler killed six million Jews; Stalin murdered thirty million, of all races and religions. Yet FDR called Stalin "Uncle Joe" and spoke highly of him to the very end. Nor were Roosevelt and his men particularly averse to concentration camps. During the beginning of the war he acquiesced to the forcible and tragically

unfair "relocation" of thousands of Japanese-Americans whose only crime was being of a particular racial descent. German-Americans were not treated similarly.

No, Roosevelt wanted America in the war because he believed that war was the road to prosperity and to greater governmental control of the American economy. His New Deal economic programs had failed to end the Depression. Unemployment in 1937 was actually greater than it had been in 1932, when Roosevelt assumed the presidency. From his experience in government during World War I, Roosevelt and his assistants (like Harry Hopkins, whom you have portrayed as being so noble and unselfish) knew that the surest and quickest way to centralize and socialize an economy, with the minimum of political opposition, was during a war. People will submit to regimentation and regulation, as well as privation, more readily during a war than during peacetime, especially when opposition to such measures may be condemned as unpatriotic and helpful to the war effort. Many historians believe that Roosevelt's private communications to the Japanese government and his actions in restraining trade with Japan—all of which violated his stated policy of neutrality—from 1937 on, helped make the attack on Pearl Harbor inevitable.

Other historians have suggested that Roosevelt hungered for the "glory" that had always accrued (before Korea and Vietnam, that is) to war presidents, such as Lincoln and Wilson before him. Roosevelt loved power and sought it; that much is certain from his record of having run four times, more than anyone else this side of Richard Nixon, for the presidency.

As for Churchill, his secretary has confirmed that when the news of Pearl Harbor reached "Winnie," he shouted hurrah and lifted a toast to his companions (brandy, his favorite drink, no doubt) and said merrily, "Now we are saved!" Rather un-super-heroish, wouldn't you say?—celebrating the deaths of many innocent sailors and soldiers, cheering the widening of an already brutal and terrible war and the impending slaughter of many hundreds of thousands of Americans. I can't picture Superman exulting over, say, the invasion of Paradise Island and the impending slaughter of Princess Diana's sisters in a war, can you?

I realize that you are writing, essentially, fantasy. But I notice what great pains you've taken to render the historical background to your stories as faithfully and exactly as you can (for which you ought to be commended). Perhaps a little more historical research, perhaps a reading of some "revisionist" views of the war and of Roosevelt's and Churchill's roles in it would have shown a very different FDR and Winnie than the ones you have portrayed in your stories thus far. Perhaps not. But I think that the real FDR and Churchill were considerably less benign, considerably less noble, than

the good people who populate your stories of super-heroes.

Aside from that one point, you're the best writer in comics today, or at least up there with the real greats like Steve Gerber, especially when it comes to characterization. I hope you don't find my historical differences superfluous or annoying, as I truly admire your work.

Carlos Preston

Not at all, Carlos. Free and healthy exchange of information and opinion is what democracy is all about. I just happen to disagree with you in your assessment of many aspects of President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill, that's all. But that's a lot.

Doubtless there was ineptitude and error at various levels of government and the military, but that was true everywhere during 1941: Some Imperial Japanese leaders thought the Pearl Harbor strike would render the U.S. impotent in the Pacific for years if not forever; Hitler rejoiced at the strike, and declared war on America a couple of days later—not one of his wisest moves, perhaps; a few months earlier, when Nazi armies attacked Soviet Russia, Premier Josef Stalin could hardly believe it—and remained incommunicado for several days during crucial fighting.

However, neither historian John Toland in his recent book *Infamy* nor the other, earlier accounts of the "Pearl Harbor cover-up" that I have read has really convinced me (for a number of other persons with far more credentials in the field of historical research than either of us have, I'm sure) that FDR knew anything more on December 6-7, 1941, than that the Japanese were about to strike somewhere, quite probably against American positions. We're not saying he didn't—only that as far as we're concerned, the verdict is still very much out.

Far from idolizing Roosevelt or Churchill, especially the former, I find them interesting and important figures whom no one could ever truly "know." FDR, in particular, was an enigma even to those who at one time or another felt they knew him well. He could be the most charming and persuasive of men, and that's how I've played him in ALL-STAR SQUADRON. Even if he were guilty of knowing in advance about the coming attack on Hawaii, he would hardly have been likely to let the All-Star Squadron in on that fact belatedly. On the other hand, in issue #30 we showed him signing the infamous order that led to the "detention centers" where the rights of many U.S. citizens were abused—a guilt he shared with now later Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Earl Warren, among others.

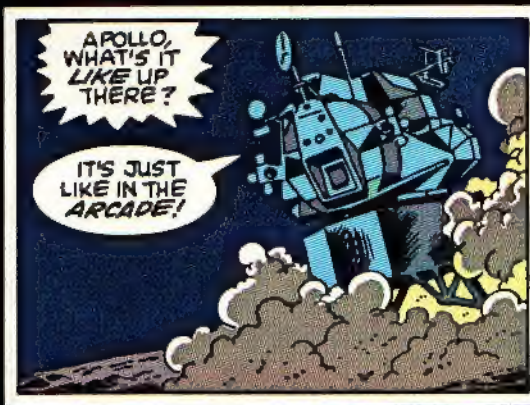
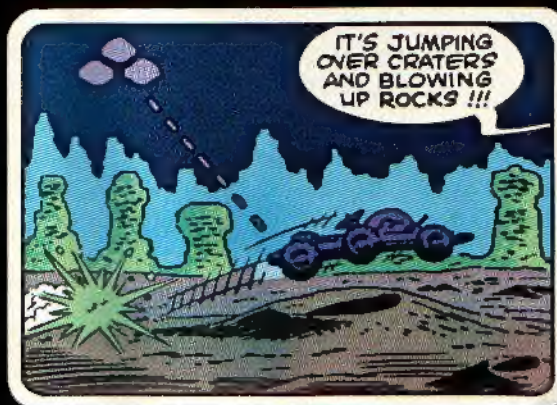
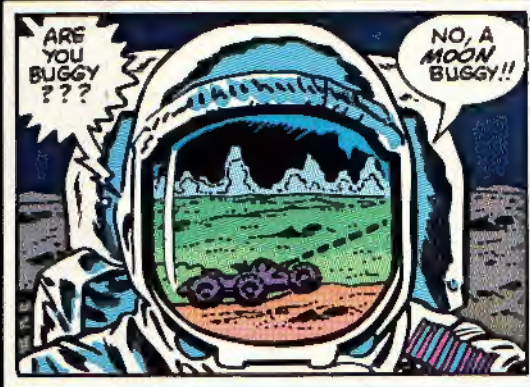
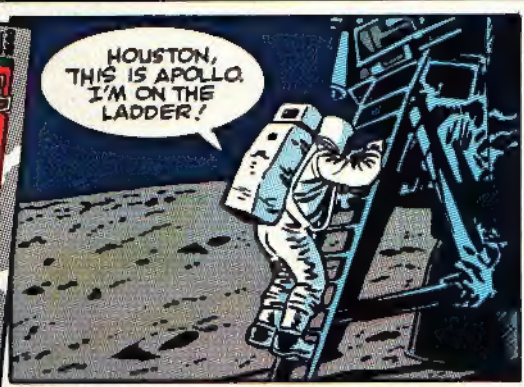
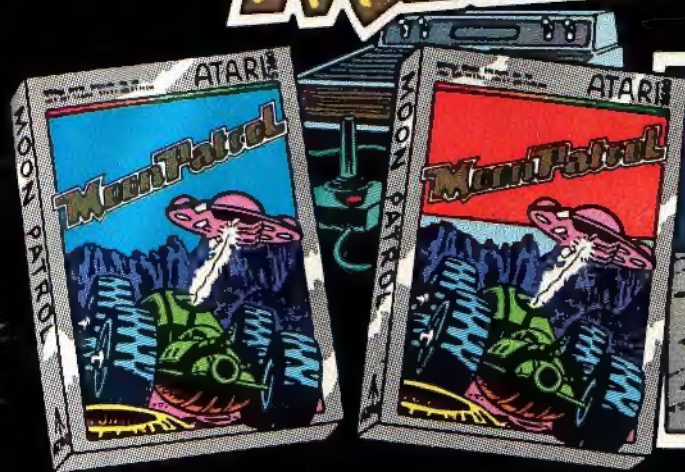
So keep reading, Carlos. We may agree or disagree, but we don't think you'll find our views are quite as simplistic (at least as they gradually unfold over the years) as you believe. After all, in ALL-STAR SQUADRON, remember, it's still late February 1942—not even three months after the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor!—Roy Thomas.

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